

Message Text

PAGE 01 TANANA 01534 100540Z

10

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /078 W

----- 036137

R 091405Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7575

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 1534

NAIROBI ALSO FOR ELFERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ECON, MILI, MA

SUBJECT: RATSIRAKA CONCLUDES MAJOR POLICY SPEECH

REF: A) TANANARIVE 1487; B) TANANARIVE 1465

SUMMARY: RATSIRAKA HAS CONCLUDED MARATHON POLICY SPEECH, AN UNCOMPROMISING STATEMENT OF "REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST" PRINCIPLES FOR MADAGASCAR, WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS OF REORGANIZATION OF ARMED FORCES AND COMPULSORY "NATIONAL SERVICE" FOR YOUTH. REACTION IN TANANARIVE APPEARS MAINLY WAIT-AND-SEE. END SUMMARY.

1. MALAGASY PRESIDENT DIDIER RATSIRAKA CONCLUDED EIGHT-PART POLICY SPEECH SEPTEMBER 6 WITH TWO NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS:

GOVERNMENT WILL ESTABLISH SYSTEM OF COMPULSORY "NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY SERVICE" FOR ALL YOUNG MALAGASY COMPLETING REGULAR STUDIES, AND ARMED FORCES WILL BE REORGANIZED TO MAKE THEM KEY INSTRUMENT OF REVOLUTION.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TANANA 01534 100540Z

2. ACCORDING TO RATSIRAKA, ARMED FORCES ARE TO BE RE-ORGANIZED INTO THREE FORCES: AN "OPERATION FORCE OF INTERVENTION" (UNEXPLAINED); AN "ARMY OF DEVELOPMENT"; AND "TECHNICAL FORCES," AIR AND SEA. COMPANY-SIZED DETACH-

MENTS OF THE REORGANIZED ARMED FORCES ARE TO BE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT ALL SUBPREFECTURES OF THE COUNTRY BOTH TO DO PUBLIC WORKS AND TO ASSIST POPULACE CREATE COOPERATIVES, UNDERTAKE LITERACY CAMPAIGNS, AND THE LIKE.

3. "NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY SERVICE" WILL REQUIRE ALL YOUNG MALAGASY COMPLETING REGULAR STUDIES TO SERVE 18 MONTHS TO TWO YEARS WITH UNITS OF ARMED FORCES ON CIVIC ACTION IN COUNTRYSIDE BEFORE EMBARKING ON REGULAR CAREERS OR PURSUING HIGHER STUDIES OVERSEAS. YOUTH IN "NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY SERVICE" WILL BE EXPECTED TO FORM OR EDUCATE THE POPULACE "MILITARILY, TECHNICALLY, MORALLY, AND POLITICALLY."

4. COMMENT: APART FROM THESE TWO ANNOUNCEMENTS RATSIRAKA'S LONG-WINDED ADDRESS AMOUNTED MAINLY TO IDEOLOGICAL DISSERTATION OUTLINING HIS PRINCIPLES OF "REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM" FOR MADAGASCAR. SPEECH WAS HEAVILY ANTI-IMPERLIST AND ANTI-CAPITALIST IN TONE AND CONTEXT AND PERMEATED WITH A STRONG DOSAGE OF MARXIST TERMINOLOGY AND CONCEPTS. REPEATED THROUGHOUT IS THEME THAT SOLE OR OVERRIDING TASK OF ALL INSTITUTIONS IN MADAGASCAR --THE ARMED FORCES, LABOR, THE MEDIA, THE MINISTRIES OF GOVERNMENT, ETC. -- MUST BE TO SERVE THE "SOCIALIST REVOLUTION." APPARENTLY THERE IS LITTLE ROOM FOR INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS IN RATSIRAKA'S SCHEME OF THINGS. LOCAL PRESS SEPTEMBER 6 AND 9 REPORTS INITIATIVE BY MINSTER OF LABOR TO UNIFY ALL LABOR UNIONS IN MADAGASCAR INTO "SINGLE UNION," AND PLAN OF MINISTER OF YOUTH PROGRESSIBELY TO ELIMINATE ALL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS NOW EXISTING IN COUNTRY IN FAVOR OF GOVERNMENT "YOUTH CENTERS" TO WEAN YOUTH FROM "CAPITALIST-MONOPOLIST" SYSTEM.

5. REACTION OF PRESS HAS BEEN RELATIVELY PERFUNCTORY, GIVEN PRIOR BUILD-UP AND SUPPOSEDLY LANDMARK NATURE OF ADDRESS. PRO-AKFM PRESS PREDICTABLY HAS PRAISED SPEECH UNRESERVEDLY, BUT FORMERLY INDEPENDENT MALAGASY-LANGUAGE PAPERS HAVE MADE LITTLE OR NO COMMENT. MOST EMBASSY SOURCES, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TANANA 01534 100540Z

MAINLY EDUCATED MERINA, HAVE EXPRESSED DISTRESS WITH ONE ASPECT OR ANOTHER OF SPEECH, SUCH SSNKOMPULSORY "NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY SERVICE" FOR EDUCATED YOUTH, BUT ONE ALSO HEARS APPROVAL OF NATIONALISTIC INITIATIVES, SUCH AS NATIONALIZATION OF COMPAGNIE MARSEILLEISE (REF A). MOST COMMON REACTION OF EMBASSY SOURCES IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF ADDRESS APPEARS BE WAIT-AND-SEE.
DESANTILLANA

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, CONSCRIPTION, POLICIES, REORGANIZATIONS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TANANA01534
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750312-0709
From: TANANARIVE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509106/baaaaeap.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971010
Subject: n/a
TAGS: ECON, MILI, PINT, MA, MILI, PINT, (RATSIRAKA, DIDIER)
To: STATE INFO DAR ES SALAAM
NAIROBI
PRETORIA
PORT LOUIS
PARIS
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006